



silent as to how a combination of these references discloses or suggests the subject matter set forth in the dependent claims. In fact, the dependent claims are not even mentioned in this Office Action.

Applicant has amended claim 1 only to more clearly set forth the present invention, which is directed to a system of banding a plurality of syringe barrels. The system generally includes a feed device, a transfer device and a transport device that moves the syringes to a web application device. The web application device is configured such that it simultaneously applies a first web material to a first face of the syringes and a second web material to a second face of the syringes and then presses the two web materials into contact with the syringes and with one another. Applicant respectfully submits that the Posge reference is completely silent as to the application of two web materials to form a banded structure and in fact, the Posge reference has nothing to do with banding product together. Instead, this reference is only concerned with accumulating product and then using a ram to push grouped product into a compartment of a receptacle. In absolutely no terms does this apparatus function to guide and press web materials onto and around spaced member (syringes).

In fact, the Examiner's own description of the Posge reference is lacking in a number of respects in that the Examiner never mentions that the indexed product items in Posge are ever banded or there was any intent to accomplish such action. The Examiner only contends that an apparatus to band syringes would be obvious in view of the two references and more particularly, in view of the indexing and accumulating machine of Posge and the description of the end result (banded syringes) in the Osborne reference. It is impossible for the Posge reference to accomplish the claimed function nor is it ever intended since the Posge apparatus is not constructed to dispense any web material nor would this be desirable since if the accumulated product in groups were banded together, it is very unlikely that such banded groups of syringes could be advanced through the staging area and contacted by the ram so as to drive the syringes into different, distinct compartments since the ramming action would tear through any web material since the accumulated groups of product in Posge are spaced apart from one another in order to permit the groups of product to drop into the individual receptacles.



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In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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